

**2023 CDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FALL ZOOM MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2023**

The meeting was called to order by President Rachael Gately at 6:12 PM CST on December 19, 2023. Directors online were as follows: Rachael Gately, Benjamin Wilfong, Jeremy Crouch, Linda Mastin and Bob Schembs. Also in attendance were former CDC Exec. Sec/Treas Deb Hopkins and current Exec. Sec/Treas Michelle Torrance. Bart Cardwell was absent from the meeting.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report: Michelle Torrance emailed a copy of the Secretary/Treasurer's Report to Board members prior to the meeting. Jeremy Crouch moved to accept the Secretary/Treasurer's Report as submitted; Benjamin Wilfong seconded. Motion carried. The following items were included in that report:

Secretary's Report - a written copy of the meeting minutes from the 2023 Annual Board Meeting held March 16, 2023, in Greenville, OH for Board approval.

Treasurer's Report - A copy of the Annual Budget as of August 31, 2023. Due to extenuating circumstances, Deb Hopkins reported that exact account balances were not currently available, but that the CDC had a good year financially and ended the year in the black. Deb Hopkins also reported that due to the above stated circumstances, an extension had been requested by the accountant for the annual tax filing and would be officially filed by April 15, 2024.

CDC Stats: Michelle Torrance reported to Board members the CDC Stats for the Year-end period of September 1, 2022 to August 31, 2023 and Current period of September 1, 2023 to current (December 19, 2023) as follows:

- Year-end Registrations September 1, 2022 to August 31, 2023
 - Polled/Horned – 4026 – down 1199 from previous year
 - DA – 976 – up 69 from previous year
- Year-end Transfers September 1, 2022 to August 31, 2023
 - Polled/Horned – 2873 – up 129 from previous year
 - DA – 835 – up 224 from previous year
- Year-end Top 5 States in Registrations – September 1, 2022 to August 31, 2023
 - Indiana – 830
 - Iowa – 752
 - Ohio – 572
 - Oklahoma – 517
 - Illinois - 480
- Year-end Top 5 Individuals in Registrations - September 1, 2022 to August 31, 2023
 - Wilfong Dorsets, Virginia – 117
 - (Tie) Fisher Club Lambs, Idaho – 64
 - (Tie) Jeffrey A Hunter, Indiana - 64
 - Nichols Sheep Farm, Illinois – 58
 - (Tie) Kelli & Brett Slack, Indiana – 57
 - (Tie) Virginia Polytechnic Inst. & State Univ, Virginia – 57
 - Paul R Cassel, Virginia - 56
- Current Registrations September 1, 2023 to Current
 - Polled/Horned – 348 – down 6 from same time period last year
 - DA – 78 – up 14 from same time period last year
- Current Transfers September 1, 2023 to Current
 - Polled/Horned – 303 – down 5 from same time period last year
 - DA – 85 – same amount from same time period last year

Correspondence: A Thank You note received from Kylie Schakel, one of the Tracy Repasky Scholarship recipients was also attached for the Board members to read.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Dorset Futurity: Deb Hopkins and Michelle Torrance presented the final futurity standings for the 2023 program. A copy of the Futurity winners and participants was emailed to the Board prior to the meeting. Data from that report is as follows: A total of \$4,565 was paid to 29 different exhibitors. Banners and rosettes were presented to both Regional and National winners. Participant breakdown by division was: Polled Ewe Lambs – 23, Dorset Advantage Ewe Lambs – 5, Horned Ewe Lambs – 9, Yearling Ewes – 9 and Bred & Owned – 28 (4 Horned, 7 Polled Fitted, 17 Polled Slick) for a total of 74 exhibitors. It was pointed out the out of the 74 participating, 11 did not submit any points, making an 85% participation rate. We would like to remind breeders with online sales coming up to get the filled out Online Futurity

Sales Nomination Forms into the office before the sale date as online sales account for over half of the ewe lambs nominated.

Breed Standard Education & Promotion: There was no Breed Standard Education items discussed. There were no new names to add to the certified judges list.

Newsletter/Webpage: Michelle Torrance reported that the 2023 Dorset Connection Fall edition was completed as an online edition which was posted on the CDC website. There was a total of 8 advertisers for this issue and Michelle Torrance will be sending out invoices to any outstanding balances by January 1, 2024. The deadline for the 2024 Winter edition is coming soon and Michelle Torrance will be working on gathering information to send to Katherine Kuykendall for that issue. Michelle Torrance reported that she is slowly sending changes to Novel Designs to update the website.

All-American Junior Show: Deb Hopkins reported that the 2023 All American held in Madison, WI went well and was well attended. The Junior Dorset Association held a fun event with a taco bar for dinner and a bags tournament and had at least 80 people at the event. Deb also reported that the 2024 All American will be held on the Michigan State University campus in East Lansing, MI from July 4-7, 2024. The Michigan committee has been working diligently to get the details organized and ready for a great show. The AAJS committee will be keeping the schedule the same as it had last year and the main change being discussed for 2024 is lowering the number of classes counting towards the Top Gun awards to 10. Michelle will be working on the CDC class sponsorship list and begin publicizing it in February or March. The AAJS committee is going to have their online semen sale once again and will be needing donations from the Dorset breed. The CDC has a breed commitment to the AAJS of \$3,550 for 2024 and does have a small overflow from last year.

National Junior Dorset Association: Michelle Torrance reported that the Annual Junior Association meeting was held during NAILE in Louisville late Saturday night, November 11, 2023 and into Sunday, November 12, 2023. The meeting was a condensed version due to the lateness of the Polled Junior Show. During the meeting, Kylie Schakel and Linsey Eddy were recognized as the 2023 Tracy Repasky Scholarship recipients. The 2023 Dorset Futurity Awards were awarded as well as the brushes to any first year Showman at a National Event. Michelle announced the 2024 NJDA Board members as: Breanna Knittel, IL – North Central region – President; Madelyn Syme, CT – New England region – Vice President; Owen Torrance, IL – Director-At-Large – Secretary/Treasurer; Katherine (Kat) Rapp – PA – Eastern region; Braxton Sedwick, IN – Great Lakes region; Ashlyn Maddox, OK – Great Plains region; and Megan Smith, MT – Western region. Michelle reported that the NJDA had a “meet and greet” Zoom meeting so they could get to know each other and start thinking about ideas for the coming year. Breanna has started an NJDA Facebook page in order to promote directly to Juniors and offer information on upcoming events. The Board will be holding their first official meeting in January. Bob Schembs moved to have a representative from the NJDA attend/participate in CDC Board meetings moving forward. Benjamin Wilfong seconded the motion. Motion passed. Michelle will discuss further with the Junior Board.

Production Committee: Benjamin Wilfong reported that he had not had an opportunity to work on this project but would get with Michael Callison to come up with more breeders to also be on the committee.

Dorset Ewe Grants: Michelle Torrance reported that only 22 applications had been received even after extending the deadline. Rachael Gately asked for volunteers for this committee to help evaluate the applications. Michelle will get the applications scanned and emailed to the committee members by January 1, 2024 for evaluation.

OLD BUSINESS

2024 New England & Great Lakes Director Elections: Michelle Torrance reminded the New England and Great Lakes Directors to set up the nominating committee meetings for their respective regions so that nominees can be turned into the CDC office as soon as possible. Rachael Gately will get the nominating committee for New England together to present nominations; Bob Schembs will be running for another term and will make sure the nominating committee for the Great Lakes region meets. Michelle requested that nominations be turned into the office as soon after January 1, 2024 as possible so that ballots can be mailed out in January.

NEW BUSINESS

2024 National Sale & Annual Meeting: The National Sale for Polled & Horned Dorset Breeding Sheep will be at the Ohio Dorset Sale, Greenville, OH on March 15-16, 2024 and the Dorset Wether Sires & Dams and Dorset Advantage will be at the Midwest Stud Ram Sale, Sedalia, MO on June 12-15, 2024. The CDC Annual Membership Meeting and Hall of Fame Induction will be at the Ohio Dorset Sale on Friday, March 15, soon after the sale show. The Ohio Dorset Association will be providing a meal as part of the evening’s events. The CDC Board of Directors meeting will be Thursday evening at 6:00 PM, Michelle will get the meeting location arranged at the Holiday Inn Express.

NAILE Shows: Directors who were in attendance reported on the 2023 NAILE shows. Michelle Torrance reported that all traveling awards were present and have been redistributed to the 2023 recipients. Michelle expressed thanks on behalf of the CDC to Charlie Inbody, Ben Wilfong, Jeremy Crouch and Ron Waldron for conducting the slick shearing inspections and educating exhibitors.

-2024 Judge Nominations were selected for the ballots as follows: Polled Fitted/Horned Dorsets: Aaron Crome, IL, Jake Reister, WA, Brad Schrock, IL and Polled Slick Shorn: Kyle Fleener, PA, Neal Knapp, IN, Kalen Poe, IN. These names will be sent out on ballots to NAILE Open Show Exhibitors after the first of the year so the first choices can be submitted to NAILE. As soon as voting is completed, Michelle will contact the first choices to let them know and will be prepared when contacted by NAILE. Michelle also asked the Board for names to submit for Junior Show judges. Nick Minter was suggested along with Emma Peters and Heidi Barkley for Breeding Sheep Showmanship.

-Benjamin Wilfong stated that he was asked about having a Junior Horned Flock winner in the future. It was discussed as to whether there would be enough participation for a State Flock or possibly making it a Regional Flock award at this time. Deb Hopkins stated that a sponsor would need to step up as the award and ribbons are paid for by the CDC. She suggested it be brought up at the Annual Meeting in Ohio.

2024 Regional Show Sites: The sites for the 2024 Regional Shows are as follows:

New England – Northeast Youth Sheep Show, West Springfield, MA July 19-21

Eastern – TBA - would like to move more south to possibly the Carolinas or Georgia

Great Lakes – TBA - looking into moving to the Youth Sheep Expo in Indiana late July

North Central – Freedom Fest, Sedalia, MO May 24-26

Great Plains – TBA – Pistol Pete Classic, Stillwater, OK late July

Western – TBA looking at possibly Oregon State Fair again

Secretary's Travel: Michelle Torrance reported that she will attend the following events in 2024: 2024 National Sale at the Ohio Dorset Sale, Midwest Stud Ram Sale, Freedom Fest (if possible), All American Junior Show in Michigan and NAILE. Michelle will make arrangements to get class winning pictures from any sale or show she is not in attendance for.

Other New Business:

File Sharing Options: Linda Mastin requested that the CDC look into a File Sharing service for the Board to use in the future. Bob Schembs suggested that Michelle Torrance look into options to be determined at the next meeting.

By-Law Change: Bob Schembs requested a copy of the current By-Laws in order to create a red line copy with changes to submit to the membership in order to meet the 30-day minimum requirement to vote on the proposed changes at the Annual Meeting. Michelle Torrance will get the document to him and will have the document ready to submit to members by February 1, 2024.

Survey: Bob Schembs discussed creating the survey to send to the membership regarding topics such as: sire DNA testing, testing for genetic abnormalities and the costs of such practices. After some discussion, it was decided that Bob and Jeremy Crouch would work on questions that could be presented in a survey. During this conversation, Benjamin Wilfong added the possibility of adding Piebald Dorsets to the registry. Ben has talked with some other breeders and has a committee ready to start discussing the Piebald possibility. It was decided that this topic would be added to the items in the survey.

Online Registration System: Michelle Torrance submitted a proposal to have Katherine Kuykendall build an online Registration integration. The system would utilize the Jotform platform and would mirror our current Registration Entry Form. Members would be able to enter all registration information via the form online and submit the information electronically to the CDC office. A payment platform would also be integrated to pay Registration fees online as well. Michelle emphasized that this system would be for new Registrations only; not for Transfers of animals already registered. Jeremy Crouch made a motion to proceed with the Jotform platform for online Registrations; Linda Mastin second. Motion passed.

Benjamin Wilfong reported to the Board that he had received a letter from a member asking why there are no awards presenting at the Ohio Showcase Sale in May. Deb Hopkins stated that this sale is not a National Dorset sale therefore awards are not presented by the CDC.

Bob Schembs moved to adjourn the meeting; Jeremy Crouch seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

*Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Torrance
CDC Executive Secretary/Treasurer*